

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SHARON JAMES, et al.,

Case No. 1:22-cv-01435-JLT-SKO

Plaintiffs,

**ORDER DENYING WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE PROPOSED STIPULATED  
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

v.

CHOCMOD USA INC.,

(Doc. 33)

Defendant.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On June 30, 2025, the parties sought Court approval of their proposed stipulated protective order. (Doc. 33.) The Court has reviewed the proposed stipulated protective order and has determined that, in its current form, it cannot be granted. For the reasons set forth below, the Court DENIES *without prejudice* the parties' request to approve the stipulated protective order.

**II. DISCUSSION**

**A. The Protective Order Does Not Comply with Local Rule 141.1(c)**

The proposed protective order does not comply with Rule 141.1 of the Local Rules of the United States District Court, Eastern District of California.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Rule 141.1(c), any proposed protective order submitted by the parties must contain the following provisions:

- (1) A description of the types of information eligible for protection under the order, with the description provided in general terms sufficient to reveal the nature of the information (e.g., customer list, formula for soda, diary of a troubled child);
- (2) A showing of particularized need for protection as to each category of information proposed to be covered by the order; and
- (3) A showing as to why the need for protection should be addressed by a court

<sup>1</sup> The proposed stipulated protective order refers to Civil Local Rules "7" and "79-5," which are not Local Rules of this Court.

order, as opposed to a private agreement between or among the parties.

Local Rule 141.1(c). The proposed stipulated protective order fails to contain this required information.

Local Rule 141.1(c)(1) requires “[a] description of the types of information eligible for protection under the order, with the description provided in general terms sufficient to reveal the nature of the information.” The protective order, in its current form, does not comply with this requirement. (*See, e.g.*, Doc. 33 at 2 (defining “confidential information or items” as “information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).”).)<sup>2</sup>

The protective order also fails to identify the parties’ need for protection in anything but the most general terms. (*See, e.g.*, Doc. 33 at 1–2.) As the parties do not present any *particularized* need for protection as to the identified categories of information to be protected, the protective order fails to comply with Local Rule 141.1(c)(2), which requires “[a] showing of particularized need for protection as to each category of information proposed to be covered by the order.”

Finally, the requirement of Local Rule 141.1(c)(3) is not at all addressed. In its current form, the protective order does not show “why the need for protection should be addressed by a court order, as opposed to a private agreement between or among the parties.”

#### **B. The Parties’ Stipulated Protective Order is Denied Without Prejudice**

The parties may re-file a revised stipulated protective order that complies with Local Rule 141.1(c) and corrects the deficiencies set forth in this order.

### **III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties’ request for Court approval of their proposed stipulated protective order (Doc. 33) is DENIED without prejudice to renewing the request.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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<sup>2</sup> The Court further cautions against the use of unqualified phrases such as “including, but not limited to,” which also do not sufficiently identify the types of information eligible for protection under Local Rule 141.1(c)(1).

1 Dated: **June 30, 2025**

*/s/ Sheila K. Oberto*  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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